

Application No. 10/671,283

Attorney Docket No. 340/4

**LISTING OF THE CLAIMS**

1. (previously presented) An electrical connector comprising:
  - a substantially planar body;
  - at least a first slot formed in the planar body and oriented in a selected direction;
  - said first slot adapted to conductively engage a first wire inserted therein; at least a second slot formed in the planar body and oriented in a direction substantially parallel and opposite to the selected direction; and
  - said second slot adapted to conductively engage a second wire inserted therein;
  - said first slot comprising an open end, a closed end and at least two opposing walls and at least one tang extending from the closed end toward the open end, said tang having an end not attached to either of said walls and adapted to conductively engage said wire.
  - said second slot comprising an open end, a closed end and opposing walls, with at least two blades with free ends protruding from the open end toward the closed end, such that each blade forms a cavity between itself and the wall;
  - wherein the free ends of the blades are not attached to the closed end of the second slot;
  - whereby insertions of the first wire and the second wire through the first and second slot establishes electrical contact with one another through the planar body.
2. (original) An electrical connector according to claim 1, at least one slot adapted to displace insulation when a wire is inserted therein.
3. (canceled)
4. (previously presented) An electrical connector of claim 1, said at least one tang comprising two tangs.

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5. (previously presented) A method of using an electrical connector of claim 4, comprising placing a wire having a single conductive strand and an insulative covering in between said two tangs, such that the tangs pierce the insulative covering and become electrically connected to said single conductive strand.

6. (previously presented) A method of using an electrical connector of claim 4, comprising placing a wire having multiple conductive strands and an insulative covering about said two tangs, such that said tangs pierce the insulative cover and multiple conductive strands are dispersed about a surface of each said tang, become electrically connected to each said tang.

7. (canceled)

8. (previously presented) An electrical connector of claim 1, said walls being movably adaptable about said wire.

9. (previously presented) A method of manipulating walls of an electrical connector of claim 1 comprising the steps of placing at least one wire into said at least one slot and bending said opposing walls about said wire such that it is retained in the slot.

10. (previously presented) An electric connector of claim 1, at least one of said walls comprising a protrusion toward the opposite wall.

11. (previously presented) An electric connector of claim 10, said protrusion comprising a hook.

12. (original) An electrical connector of claim 1, at least one slot comprising an open end, a closed end and opposing walls, with at least two blades protruding from the open end toward the closed end, such that each blade forms a cavity between itself and a wall of the slot.

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13. (previously presented) An electrical connector of claim 1, said blades having a notch located along a length adjacent to an opposite blade.

14. (previously presented) An electrical connector of claim 1, said blades adapted to be manipulated toward each other such that each blades is capable of maintaining a spring load.

15. (previously presented) A method of manipulating blades of an electrical connector of claim 1, comprising the steps of placing a tool in a cavity formed between a blade and an opposing wall; and moving the tool such that it engages the blade and manipulates it toward an opposite wall.

16. (previously presented) The method of claim 15, comprising moving the tool in a substantially linear direction.

17. (previously presented) The method of claim 15, comprising moving the tool in an arching motion.

18. (previously presented) The method of claim 15, comprising moving the electrical connector about the tool such that the blade engages the tool which manipulates the blade toward an opposite wall.

19. (previously presented) The method of claim 18, comprising moving said connector about the tool in a substantially linear direction.

20. (previously presented) The method of claim 18, comprising moving said connector about the tool in an arching motion.

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21. (original) The electrical connector of claim 1, said connector further comprising two lateral edges and two ends, each end being adjacent to one of said slots.

22. (original) The electrical connector of claim 21, said second slot oriented in a direction substantially parallel and opposite to the selected direction.

23. (original) The electrical connector of claim 22, the closed end of the first slot adjacent to the closed end of the second slot.

24. (original) The electrical connector of claim 22, at least one lateral edge further comprising at least one indentation adjacent to one of said slots.

25. (original) The electrical connector of claim 24, wherein the indentation contains a lateral edge that is adjacent to an end and hooked toward an opposite end.

26. (previously presented) The electrical connector of claim 22, at least one lateral edge further comprising a protrusion located between the two ends.

27. (previously presented) The electrical connector of claim 26, at least one protrusion located substantially about a centerline between the two ends.

28. (previously presented) The electrical connector of claim 24, at least one lateral edge further comprising a protrusion located between the indentation and the end adjacent to the opposing slot.

29. (original) The electrical connector of claim 28, wherein the protrusion is located substantially about a centerline between the two ends.

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30. (previously presented) An electrical connector comprising:

- a substantially planar body;
- at least a slot formed in the planar body and oriented in a selected direction;
- said slot adapted to conductively engage a wire inserted therein;
- at least a prong formed in the planar body and oriented in a direction substantially parallel and opposite to the selected direction; and
- said prong adapted to conductively engage a printed circuit board to which it is inserted;
- said slot comprising an open end, a closed end and opposing walls, with at least two blades with free ends protruding from the open end toward the closed end, such that each blade forms a cavity between itself and the wall;
- wherein the free ends of the blades are not attached to the closed end of the second slot;
- whereby electrical contact between the wire and the printed circuit board is established through the planar body.

31. (previously presented) A strip of at least two electrical connectors comprising for connecting two wires:

- a strip of conductive material stamped into at least two electrical connectors;
- said connectors directly adjacent to each other such that there are no pieces of material between them that are not part of one of said connectors;
- wherein the connector is a substantially planar body comprising:
- at least a first slot formed in the planar body and oriented in a selected direction to engage the first wire therein; and
- at least a second slot formed in the planar body and oriented in a direction substantially parallel to the selected direction;
- said first slot comprises an open end, a closed end and at least two opposing walls and at least one tang extending from the closed end toward the open end, said tang having an end not attached to either of said walls;

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said second slot comprising an open end, a closed end and opposing walls, with at least two blades with free ends protruding from the open end toward the closed end, such that each blade forms a cavity between itself and the wall;

wherein the free ends of the blades are not attached to the closed end of the second slot.

32-33. (canceled)

34. (previously presented) A method for placing at least two wires into an electrical connector containing at least two slots oriented in a direction substantially parallel and opposite to each other, comprising the steps of:

placing said at least two wires substantially parallel to each other;

spacing said at least two wires such that each wire is aligned with a slot of an electrical connector;

aligning said electrical connector such that each said slot is open toward said wires; and

applying force to said connector in a direction of said wires;

the connector comprises a substantially planar body comprising:

at least one first slot comprising an open end, a closed end and at least two opposing walls and at least one tang extending from the closed end toward the open end, said tang having an end not attached to either of said walls;

at least one second slot comprising an open end, a closed end and opposing walls, with at least two blades with free ends protruding from the open end toward the closed end, such that each blade forms a cavity between itself and the wall;

wherein the free ends of the blades are not attached to the closed end of the second slot;

and inserting the respective wires into the respective slots whereby electrical contact with one another is established through the planar body.

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35. (currently amended) A method for placing at least two wires into an electrical connector containing at least two slots oriented in a direction substantially parallel and opposite to each other, comprising the steps of:

placing said at least two wires substantially parallel to each other;  
spacing said at least two wires such that each wire is aligned with a slot of an electrical connector;

aligning said electrical connector such that each said slot is open toward said wires;

and applying force to said wires in a direction of said connector;

wherein the connector is a substantially planar body comprising:

at least one first slot comprising an open end, a closed end and at least two opposing walls and at least one tang extending from the closed end toward the open end, said tang having an end not attached to either of said walls;

~~wherein~~ said second slot comprising an open end, a closed end and opposing walls, with at least two blades with free ends protruding from the open end toward the closed end, such that each blade forms a cavity between itself and the wall;

wherein the free ends of the blades ~~do~~ are not attached to the closed end of the second slot; and ~~wherein the wires are inserted~~ inserting the respective wires into the slot and respective slots such that the wires are in electrical contact with one another through the planar body.

36-37. (canceled)

38. (previously presented) A method for placing at least one wire and at least one printed circuit board into an electrical connector containing at least one slot and at least one prong oriented in a direction substantially parallel and opposite to each other, comprising the steps of:

placing said at least one wire substantially parallel to said at least one printed circuit board;

spacing said at least one wire such that it is aligned with the slot;

spacing said at least one printed circuit board such that it is aligned with the prong;

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aligning said electrical connector such that said slot is open toward said at least one wire and such that said prong is extended toward said at least one printed circuit board;

and applying force to said wire and said printed circuit board in a direction to said connector;

wherein the connector is a substantially planar body comprising:

said prong;

said slot comprising an open end, a closed end and opposing walls, with at least two blades with free ends protruding from the open end toward the closed end, such that each blade forms a cavity between itself and the wall;

wherein the free ends of the blades are not attached to the closed end of the second slot; and

inserting the wire into the slot establishing electrical contact with the printed circuit board through the planar body.

39. (previously presented) An electrical connector of claim 1, said blades having blade lateral edges containing rounded edges.